

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVENUE**  
**LETTER OF FINDINGS NUMBER: 00-0471 AGI**  
**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME TAX**  
**FOR TAX PERIODS: 1998**

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**Issue**

**Adjusted Gross Income Tax: Imposition**

**Authority:** IC 6-3-2-1, 26 U.S.C.A. Sec. 61 (a), Thomas v. Indiana Department of Revenue, 675 N.E.2d 362 (Ind. Tax 1997), Snyder v. Indiana Department of Revenue, 723 N.E.2d 487 (Ind. Tax 2000).

Taxpayer protests the imposition of the adjusted gross income tax.

**Statement of Facts**

The Indiana Department of Revenue issued the taxpayer a refund of taxes for 1998. The Indiana Department of Revenue determined that the refund was issued in error. The Indiana Department of Revenue then issued an assessment for adjusted gross income tax, interest and penalty for 1998. Further facts will be provided as necessary.

**Adjusted Gross Income Tax: Imposition**

**Discussion**

An adjusted gross income tax is imposed upon all Indiana residents. IC 6-3-2-1. The taxpayer argues that he has no Indiana Adjusted Gross Income for 1998 and therefore does not owe any tax. The taxpayer notes that the Indiana Code borrows some of its definitions from the Internal Revenue Code. For instance, "gross income" is defined at IC 6-3-1-8 as having the meaning as defined by section 61(a) of the Internal Revenue Code." Section 61 (a) which states in part:

Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, gross income means all income from whatever source derived, including (but not limited to) the following items:

- (1) Compensation for services, including fees, commissions, fringe benefits, and similar items. . .

The taxpayer contends that since the word “wages” is not listed in Section 61, wages are not taxable income. Therefore he filed a return entering “zero” on the line titled “Wages, Tips, other Compensation.” He then entered a federal adjusted gross income of “zero” on his Indiana return. Following this erroneous logic, the taxpayer protested the assessment of additional tax, penalty and interest for 1998.

The Indiana Tax Court has disposed with arguments that wages do not constitute income. In Thomas v. Indiana Department of Revenue, 675 N.E.2d 362 (Ind. Tax 1997), the Tax Court stated:

[e]ven assuming the validity of Thomas’s legal framework, monetary payments made in exchange for labor are clearly severed from labor and received or drawn by the recipient for his separate use, benefit, or disposal.

In Snyder v. Indiana Department of Revenue, 723 N.E.2d 487 (Ind. Tax 2000), the Court specifically states at page 491 that “wages are income for purposes of Indiana’s adjusted gross income tax.” The taxpayers’ income is subject to the Indiana Adjusted Gross Income Tax.

### **Finding**

The taxpayer’s protest is denied.